

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 10, with the following amended paragraph.

The invention relates to a massage carriage for use in a massage chair or similar that can be moved back and forth along a frame in the massage chair or similar, comprising a drive, a first shaft that can be moved by the drive and a second shaft that can be moved by the drive, two first arms, which are connected to the first shaft, can be moved by the first shaft and on each of which a massage element is mounted, and two second arms, which are connected to the second shaft and can be moved by the second shaft, one of which each acts on one of the first arms, such that the massage elements can be moved by the drive with one movement component oriented parallel to the frame and one oriented perpendicular to the frame, where the effective length of the second arms, i.e., the distance between point of connection to the second shaft and the point of action on the respective first arm, is adjustable.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 21, with the following amended paragraph.

A massage carriage of the type mentioned in the opening paragraph is known from WO 97/37627 WO-A-03/028615, where the upper, first shaft, located roughly in the middle of the carriage, and the lower, second shaft, located at the top, are driven by an upper and a lower laterally opposite geared motor motors. The first arms, connected in articulated fashion and at an angle on the angled, eccentric areas of the first shaft, extend essentially in a horizontal direction from the two geared motors. The free ends of the second arms, which are designed as connecting rods, act in articulated fashion on the middle areas ends of the first arms in articulated fashion pointing away from the massage elements, said second arms being connected to the eccentric areas of eccentrics mounted on the second shaft shafts and moved by it them. The second arms, designed as connecting rods, display a length compensation feature, the purpose of which is to compensate for the differences occurring when the first and second shafts are driven, in the distance between the point of connection to the second shaft and the point of action on the respective first arm.

Please insert the following two new paragraphs on page 3, before the paragraph beginning on line 14.

In the massage carriage disclosed in EP-A-1386595, the massage elements can be moved into an idle position upon deactivating the massage function. The distance between the first and second shafts is changed by means of a linear drive for this purpose. In their middle area, the second arms display a joint, the pivoting axis of which runs perpendicular to the second shaft. This joint compensates for parallel movements of the first arms relative to the first shaft.

A massage carriage displaying overload protection for the user is known from JP 04038905 A and the abstract of this printed publication in the Patent Abstracts of Japan Vol. 016, No. 207 (C0941), May 18, 1992. To this end, the massage carriage comprises a massage unit, the upper end of which is located, in a manner permitting pivoting about a horizontal axis, on a frame that can be moved vertically in the backrest of a vehicle seat. When a predetermined pressure is exerted on the massage rollers projecting from the massage unit on the end of an arm, the massage unit with the massage rollers is moved into the backrest. The lower end of the massage unit is released from a snap connection to the frame to this end.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 22, with the following amended paragraph.

According to the invention, the object is solved in that, on a massage carriage of the kind mentioned in the opening paragraph, the first arms are designed, and the first and second arms arranged, in such a way that the effective length of the second arms, i.e. the distance between the point of connection to the second shaft and the point of action on the respective first arm, is adjustable can be reduced by applying a predetermined pressure on the side of the first arms facing away from the second arms and/or on the side of the massage elements facing away from the first arms, against an initial tension.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 28.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 1, with the following amended paragraph.

As a result of this measure, it is easily possible for the massage elements to be lowered as overload protection for the user and/or into a parking mode position when the massage function is deactivated. When the first arms and the attached massage elements are retracted lowered in this way, the massage carriage takes on relatively flat dimensions ~~in a parking mode of this kind~~, such that it can be inserted into the backrest of a massage chair in the longitudinal direction from below. Following installation, the first arms with the massage elements can then be extended ~~when to activate the massage function~~~~is activated~~.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 14, with the following amended paragraph.

If it is ensured that the effective length of the second arms is reduced in the event of a high load, resulting from a high body weight or the seat back being moved far backwards or downwards, the retracted second arms form a kind of overload protection for the human back. Unpleasant or even harmful action of the massage elements on the back is avoided, particularly if the length of the second arms is reduced automatically in the event of extreme loading.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 23, with the following amended paragraph.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the first arms are designed, and the first and second arms arranged, in such a way that the the case where the effective length of the second arms can be reduced by applying exerting a predetermined pressure on the side of the first arms facing away from the second arms, against an initial tension, the massage elements can be lowered into the parking position by operating elements acting on these sides. In the event of greater loading of the massage elements and the first arms, the second arms are compressed, such that the back. In the other case, where the effective length of the second arms can be reduced by exerting a predetermined pressure on the side of the massage elements facing away from the first

arms, against an initial tension, overload protection is automatic, such that the back of the user is relieved and health damage avoided. When the load is relieved, the second arms automatically extend back into the normal massaging position owing to the initial tension.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 34.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 3, with the following amended paragraph.

Figures 3 and 4 show an additional spring element 10 that increases, acting against the pneumatic spring, by means of which the spring force of the pneumatic spring is increased. Spring element 10 thus supports extension of the pneumatic spring from the parking position of first arms 3 and massage elements 4, shown in Figs. 3 and 4, into the massaging position.